

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
KINGSVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF MUISC

COMMERCIAL RECORDING AND MIXING TECHNIQUES, MUSI 4336, 3 SCH, LECTURE

MWF 10:00 – 10:50AM, MUEB 171

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Cresci, Assistant Professor of Sound Recording technology

Office Location: MUEB 240

Face-to-Face Office Hours: Posted or by Appointment

Office Phone: 361-593-4536

Office Fax: 361-593-2816

University Email Address: jonathan.cresci@tamuk.edu

Course Mode of Instruction: Face to Face

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on contemporary recording techniques associated with rock/pop music production. Topics include multi-track recording, mixing, overdubbing, headphone monitoring. Additional topics include: drum kit techniques, sample libraries and electronic music production, and mastering techniques.

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: None

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Technology Requirement(s):

- At least a 64gb USB 3.0 Flash Drive or external SSD, the larger the better.
- Studio-quality, closed-back, wired headphones (Non-Bluetooth or USB). Options given in class.

Optional Text and/or Materials:

- Personal Laptop Computer
- Digital Audio Workstation
 - Pro Tools Intro or Artist Subscription
 - Reaper

STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of signal flow in both the analog and digital domain to feed headphones during a recording session.
2. Design mic solutions to common studio multi-track recording situations.
3. Demonstrate industry standard documentation and archival practices.

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.

4. Assess the performances of talent in a production environment.
5. Apply skills and knowledge from class to track local artists.
6. Track, and edit a single.

MARKETABLE SKILLS

- The ability the track and overdub in the commercial music setting.
- The understanding of commercial microphone technique.
- The ability to edit commercial music.
- Ability to run an efficient commercial recording session.
- An understanding of proper session “documentation for archival” techniques

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENT

Instructional methods will include a balance of classroom lecture, multi-media presentations, demonstrations, and hands on laboratory exercises. Laboratory exercises will require work beyond the course meeting time.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based in the following manner:

A = 90% - 100%
 B = 80% - 89%
 C = 70% - 79%
 D = 60% - 69%
 F = 59% or Below

Weighted Grading Structure:

Attendance and Participation: 35%

140pts. 10 pts/week. Students may miss 2 classes (still responsible for missed work) or earn extra credit points for participating in all class sessions - maximum of 10 pts.

Quizzes, Exams: 20%

Projects and Assignments: 45%

All project and assignment rubrics will represent a grade of a B. Projects and assignments above a **grade** of B must demonstrate an advanced level of creativity and mastery.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DISCLAIMER – All aspects of the course schedule are subject to change. Students will be alerted to changes on Blackboard and in class.

Week	Topics and Chapters	Assignments
1	Review and Microphone Technique	Project 1
2	Microphone Technique	
!!!!	September 2, 2024	Labor Day Holiday
3	Pro Tools Signal flow, Click Tracks, IO Matrix, Templates	

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Week	Topics and Chapters	Assignments
4	Documentation and Genre Research and Critical Listening	Weekend Recording Session 1
5	Session Editing	Project 2
6	Session preparation for Mixing	
!!!!	October 31, 2024	Last Day to Drop
7	Session Archiving	
8	Role discussion, Genre Research and Critical Listening	Weekend Recording Session 2
9	Session Editing	Project 3
10	Session preparation for Mixing	
11	Session Archiving	
12	Genre Research and Critical Listening	Weekend Recording Session 3
13	Session Editing	Project 4
14	Session preparation for Mixing	
!!!!	November 28-29, 2024	Thanksgiving Break
15	Session Archiving	
!!!!	December 4, 2024	Last Day of Class
16		Final Project

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

INSTRUCTOR'S POLICIES

Attendance

This course builds upon attained knowledge from direct hands-on learning. Missing class meetings will not only prohibit an individual student progress but will slow the pace for the entire class. Many skills will be drilled (practiced) in class. For these reasons, class participation comprises a percentage of each student's final grade. In case of prolonged absence due to serious illness, emergency, religious holidays, or participation in official college functions, you need to notify your instructor as soon as possible of your absence and you remain responsible for completing missed work and/or make-up activities.

Late/Missing Work/Extra Credit

Assignments are to be turned in no later than the Sunday, following the week the assignment was assigned, by 11:59 PM. Assignments turned in after that date will receive a maximum of 70 if turned in within the following week. Work turned in by the second week will not be accepted.

Other Course Policies (if applicable)

This course requires students to work hands-on with high-end computer and audio equipment. Students are expected to treat this equipment with care and respect. Neglectful misuse of equipment will result in failure of the course and replacement of equipment at the student's expense.

Music Department Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used or displayed in a classroom, rehearsal, recital, concert or other academic or musical event unless expressly permitted by the instructor. A faculty member may ask the student to leave the classroom or venue until the conclusion of the class, rehearsal, or concert if the student is found in violation of this policy.

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Use of AI in the Classroom

Limited use of AI tools

During this class, there may be opportunities to make use of AI tools (such as ChatGPT). You will be informed as to when, where, and how these tools are permitted, along with guidance for attribution. Any use outside of this permission will be considered a violation of the University's academic misconduct policy and may lead to disciplinary procedures.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Six Drop Policy

The following provision does not apply to students with Texas public college or university credits prior to Fall 2007. The Texas Senate Bill 1231 specifies the number of course drops allowed to a student without penalty. After a student has dropped six courses, a grade of QF will normally be recorded for each subsequent drop. Additional information on Senate Bill 1231 is available at the Registrar's Office at (361) 593-2811 and at [Academic Procedure: Drop Policy](#).

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disability. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early as possible in the term at (361) 593-3024. DRC is located in the Student Health and Wellness building at 1210 N. Retama St.

Classroom Conduct Expectations

Students are referred to the *Student Code of Conduct* section of the [Student Handbook](#). Students are expected to assume individual responsibility for maintaining a productive learning environment and conduct themselves with the highest regard for response and consideration of others. Ongoing or single behaviors considered distracting will be addressed by the faculty member initially, but if the behavior becomes excessive and the student refuses to respond to the faculty member's efforts, the issue will be referred to the Dean of Students. In the case of serious disruptive behavior in a classroom, the instructor will first request compliance from the student and if the student fails to comply, the instructor has the authority to ask the student to leave the classroom. The student is expected to comply with the instructor's request and may subsequently contest this action using procedures established by the department. If the student fails to leave after being directed to do so, assistance may be obtained from other university personnel, including the University Police Department. The incident shall be handled as an academic misconduct matter using established departmental procedures for academic misconduct to determine if the student should be allowed to return to the classroom.

Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to adhere to the highest academic standards of behavior and personal conduct in this course and all other courses. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to University disciplinary procedures. Students are expected to be familiar with the current Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct, which discusses conduct expectations and academic dishonesty rules. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

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1. Cheating: deception in which the student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the professor on assignments or examinations.
2. Aid of academic dishonesty: Intentionally facilitating any act of academic dishonesty. Tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation, and/or paraphrase of someone else's work, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism. Please be aware that the University subscribes to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Your paper may be submitted to this service at the discretion of the instructor.
5. Lying: deliberate falsification with the intent to deceive in written or verbal form as it applies to an academic submission.
6. Bribery: providing, offering or taking rewards in exchange for a grade, an assignment, or the aid of academic dishonesty.
7. Threat: an attempt to intimidate a student, staff or faculty member for the purpose of receiving an unearned grade or in an effort to prevent reporting of an Honor Code violation.

Other forms of academic misconduct included but are not limited to:

1. Failure to follow published departmental guidelines, professor's syllabi, and other posted academic policies in place for the orderly and efficient instruction of classes, including laboratories, and use of academic resource or equipment.
2. Unauthorized possession of examinations, reserved library materials, laboratory materials or other course related materials.
3. Failure to follow the instructor or proctor's test-taking instructions, including but not limited to not setting aside notes, books or study guides while the test is in progress, failing to sit in designated locations and/or leaving the classroom/test site without permission during a test.
4. Prevention of the convening, continuation or orderly conduct of any class, lab or class activity. Engaging in conduct that interferes with or disrupts university teaching, research or class activities such as making loud and distracting noises, repeatedly answering cell phones/text messaging or allowing pagers to beep, exhibiting erratic or irrational behavior, persisting in speaking without being recognized, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom or test site without authorization, and making physical threats or verbal insults to the faculty member, or other students and staff.
5. Falsification of student transcript or other academic records; or unauthorized access to academic computer records.
6. Nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications of other university records.
7. Any action which may be deemed as unprofessional or inappropriate in the professional community of the discipline being studied.

Harassment/Discrimination

Texas A&M University-Kingsville does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, gender, gender identify or sexual orientation (or any other illegal basis) and investigative processes are available for any reports that indicate sexual harassment, sex-based misconduct, harassment, or discrimination may have occurred by a respondent that has enrolled at or is employed with the university. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex are types of sex discrimination. Such sexual misconduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community

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violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. A person who believes they have been the victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking based on sex or unlawful discrimination of a protected class may pursue either the informal or the formal complaint resolution processes. Reports may be initiated with the Office of Compliance at (361) 593-4758, with the complainant's immediate supervisor, a department head, a supervisory employee, any faculty or staff, or the Dean of Students at (361) 593-3606. Regardless of who the incident is reported to, the Compliance Office will be notified of the report so that they can reach out to the complainant to discuss supportive measures and administrative processes that may be available.

Please note, all faculty and staff are mandated reporters, except for counselors at Student Health and Wellness. Counselors at Student Health and Wellness are confidential reporters and will not disclose any identifiable information regarding an incident that is made known to them. However, they may be able to provide information on where supportive measures can be obtained and administrative processes initiated. A mandated reporter (any faculty and staff) is required to report any incident that is made known to them, while they are working within their job description, to the Office of Compliance, Lewis Hall, Suite 130, 361-593-4758, titleix@tamuk.edu. This includes incidents that have occurred on or off-campus. For those who wish to remain anonymous and are not reporting a mandated report, anonymous reporting is available at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/19681/index.html>.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Kingsville does not tolerate discrimination of pregnant or parenting students. Students who are pregnant or parenting may not be denied access to any program or activity on the basis of their pregnant or parenting status. Any pregnant students, or student planning on becoming pregnant, should consult their health care provider to determine what, if any, accommodations are needed, based on their individual situation. Temporary leave for pregnant or parenting students due to medical necessity may also be available. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate their needs to the faculty member or Office of Compliance as soon as possible in order for risk-reduction to be assessed and to determine if additional modifications for the course are necessary. While the university cannot mandate the disclosure of a student's status as pregnant or parenting, the university strongly recommends that students do provide notification, so appropriate steps can be taken to ensure the health of both the parent and child. To communicate health circumstances or to request additional information (accommodations, leave, lactation rooms, pregnancy parking permits, etc.), the following individuals may be contacted:




Pregnant Students:

Tasha Clark, Office of Compliance, Lewis Hall, Suite 130, 361-593-4758, TitleIX@tamuk.edu






Parenting Students:

Kirsten Compary, Office of the Dean of Students, MSUB, RM 306, 361-593-3606, Kirsten.compary@tamuk.edu

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT SERVICES

NAME	SERVICES	
Pathways Academic Assistance Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutoring and academic support, in-person and online Peer Tutors help provide a solid academic foundation that enables students to become confident, capable, independent learners Tutors guide students in identifying, acquiring, and enhancing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to reach their desired goals 	<p>Location: Jernigan Library, 220 Phone: 361-593-5223 Email: paactutoring@tamuk.edu Website: PAAC Tutoring Appointments: javsuccess.tamuk.edu IG: tamuksuccess_squad</p> 
Writing Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing consultation in-person and online Writing consultants assist students with writing assignments at any stage of the writing process: understanding assignments, brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, researching, and integrating sources 	<p>Location: Jernigan Library, 217 Phone: 361-593-2744 Email: success@tamuk.edu Website: Writing Center</p> 
Success Peer Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentors strive to increase students' connections with the university & Kingsville community Mentors refer students to resources, including experiential learning opportunities (e.g., research, internships, global study, etc.) Mentors facilitate student success strategies (e.g., time management, motivation, organization, healthy habits, study/test-taking, etc.) 	<p>Location: Jernigan Library, 210 & 242 Phone: 361-593-5800 Email: success@tamuk.edu Website: Success Mentoring</p> 
Jernigan Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check out books, laptops, calculators, reserve materials and more. (https://libguides.tamuk.edu/access) LibGuides provides information concerning online research help for a variety of subjects Computer lab on the first floor 	<p>Location: 1050 N. University Blvd. Phone: 361-593-3319 Email: Ask Us!</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Texas Archives on the third floor, houses archival materials documenting the rich history of both South Texas and the University 	Website: Library 
Mental Health & Well-Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. • Personal counseling focuses on short-term treatment goals to facilitate adjustment, improve functioning, and address acute symptoms that may impede student success • U-Turn Program helps students identify their academic strengths and opportunities for growth • Next Steps Career Counseling Program assists students who are unsure of their major, career, or future goals/plans • After-hours crisis support through UPD 361.593.2611 • Access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available for guidance and support whenever it is needed. 	Location: 1210 N. Retama St. Phone: 361-593-5080 Email: counselingservices@tamuk.edu Website: Counseling Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call/text 988 Telus app  
Disability Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equal access and full participation in the college experience and programs for students with disabilities • Facilitate reasonable academic accommodations for students on a case-by-case basis that aid in academic success 	Location: 1210 N. Retama St. Phone: 361-593-3024 Email: drc.center@tamuk.edu Website: Disability Resource 
Advising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisors ensure students stay on track to meet their degree plan needs • Help students set and reach academic and personal career goals • Assists students in finding educational opportunities & campus resources 	Location: Various Locations Phone: 361-593-3935 Email: success@tamuk.edu Website: Academic Advising 

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Career Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resume reviews & practice interviews • Strategic career & alumni mentoring connections • Work study & on-campus job-finding assistance • Internships & full-time jobs in Javelina Careers powered by Handshake • Career Expos 	<p>Memorial Student Union Building (1050 W. Santa Gertrudis Ave.), 122 (across from Starbucks) Phone: 361-593-2217 Email: hirejavelinas@tamuk.edu Website: Career Engagement</p> 